

For Immediate Release
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BLM to Revise Western Oregon Plans

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a planning project to revise all of the Resource Management Plans for the BLM-managed lands in western Oregon. The planning area for this project covers approximately 2,557,800 acres of public land contained in the BLM's Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg and Medford Districts and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District. Because of the importance and extent of this project the BLM is working to fully identify specific resource concerns that should be considered during the revisions.

During September and October, the BLM will begin the planning process by gathering comments from the public, interest groups, and other Federal, state, and local agencies to help set the parameters of the planning effort. Public meetings have been scheduled throughout western Oregon during September and October to provide information about the process and collect public ideas and issues.

The current Resource Management Plans were completed shortly after the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan in 1995. In April 2005, a comprehensive 10-year analysis of implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan culminated in status and trends reports that studied social economic conditions, northern spotted owls, watershed conditions, old-growth, and marbled murrelets. An overall synthesis report is taking the status trends reports and providing answers on the effectiveness and validity of the assumptions that shaped the Northwest Forest Plan. The reports are available at www.reo.gov. The BLM's western Oregon resource management plan revisions will take into account the results of the status and trends reports, and synthesis report.

"During the last ten years, the BLM has spent exceptional effort responding to legal challenges to its efforts to implement the existing Resource Management Plans. We believe the goals stated in the Northwest Forest Plan ten years ago are still valid, but it's time to take a fresh look at how we go about reaching those goals. Public lands are an important contributor to sustainable forests and thriving communities. The challenge we have undertaken is finding a socially responsive balance between forest use and conservation," said BLM State Director Elaine Brong.

Recent court actions over these lands resulted in a settlement agreement between the BLM, the American Forest Resource Council, and other parties. The lawsuit asserted that BLM was violating the O&C Lands Act because large blocks of O&C lands were designated as "reserves", and not subject to timber harvest.

The BLM is legally mandated to manage the bulk of these western Oregon lands under a 1937 Act of Congress commonly referred to as the O&C Lands Act. The O&C Lands Act directed the Department of the Interior to manage these lands under the principles of "sustained yield" managing these lands for "permanent forest production" and directed that about half of the proceeds of the sale of public timber be directed to the Counties of western Oregon in-lieu of lost property taxes when the lands were revested to the Federal Government. As a result of this legislative history, the BLM has an important obligation to western Oregon counties.

“This settlement agreement requires the BLM to re-focus our efforts towards on-the-ground management by fulfilling the commitments we made in response to the Northwest Forest Plan, and also specifies that we revise our existing plans. We’re confident that revising these plans will enable us to find a management scenario that meets the intent of all applicable laws,” said Brong.

Public scoping meetings and open houses have been scheduled to provide information about the planning process and collect comments and ideas.

**Public Scoping Meetings
September & October 2005**

Date	Place	Time
September 8, Thursday	BLM Office 1717 Fabry Rd. SE Salem, Oregon	12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
September 13, Tuesday	Clackamas County Service Center, 9101 SE Sunnybrook Blvd. Clackamas, Oregon	1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
September 15, Thursday	Shilo Inn Klamath Falls, Oregon	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
September 20, Tuesday	Red Lion Hotel 1313 N. Bayshore Drive Coos Bay, Oregon	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
September 21, Wednesday	BLM Office, 2890 Chad Drive Eugene, Oregon	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
September 22, Thursday	Oregon State University Campus LaSells Stewart Center Agricultural Leaders Room	12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
September 22, Thursday	Jots Resort Meeting Room 94360 Wedderburn Loop Rd Gold Beach, Oregon	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
September 27, Tuesday	Nestucca High School Library, Cloverdale, Oregon	12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
October 6, Thursday	Port of Umpqua Conf Room 364 No. 4 th Street Reedsport, Oregon	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
October 6, Thursday	BLM Office 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd. Roseburg, OR	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
October 12, Wednesday	BLM Office, 3040 Biddle Road Medford, Oregon	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
October 13, Thursday	BLM & US Forest Service Office (new)	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

2164 NE Spalding Ave.
Grants Pass, Oregon

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The formal scoping period for the Resource Management Plan revision process will be open until October 21, 2005. Taking information it receives from the public, the BLM will prepare detailed planning criteria and alternatives to be analyzed in the planning process. That information should be available for public review in December 2005. Beginning in 2006, the BLM will prepare a draft plan and environmental impact statement for formal public review in early 2007. BLM intends to complete the plan revision process by spring of 2008.

More information about the planning process and upcoming public meetings can be obtained from local BLM offices. Information can also be obtained from:

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